

**Congressional Breakfast  
Honoring First Lunar Landing  
Washington, DC  
7/20/94**

We're going to unveil a new stamp today. A space stamp at the Air and Space Museum.

When I think about the Apollo program—and I sit here in this room awestruck still by the Apollo astronauts that walked on the Moon—I think of a toast to flight and life, because that is what we are all about. We're not about just working and getting food and building houses. There's a spirit in all of us that wants to perpetuate life and to enjoy life and to celebrate life. And to me, the landing on the Moon was a celebration of life.

I remember standing at LaGuardia Airport crying as Neil Armstrong put his feet on the Moon and hugging strangers that I didn't even know and thinking the same thought to myself: This is what we're all about. And I don't think of all the debate that occurs and all the people that stand up and say this that and the other thing, because I think deep down we all have that basic desire.

Space is the expression of people in the 20th and 21st century. And I don't view Apollo as the high water mark for what the human spirit can achieve. I view it as proof that we could do the impossible. Just think about it. The President in 1961 says, we're going to the Moon by the end of the decade. We didn't have a team in place. We didn't have an evolving set of approaches, we had a few scribbles on the back of an envelope. That's the data that we had to get this going.

We brought in tens of thousands of people in a year or two. They hadn't worked together before. They ran calculations about the actual numerical reliability of landing on the Moon and it was appalling it was so low, but we did it anyhow because we thought about life. We made it happen.

And now, as we're in the economic and spiritual doldrums, coming out of one era and going into another era, we're going to go into space. And we're going to leave Earth orbit. The shuttle is a wonderful machine, but it's locked in Earth orbit. We could do wonderful science on the shuttle, but we're locked in Earth orbit. The space station is going to help us understand how people live and work in space, but it's locked in Earth's orbit.

Twenty-five years from now, I hope to be in Washington celebrating the 50th anniversary of the landing on the Moon. While we'll be doing that we will have astronauts on Mars, perhaps on the moon, looking for planets around the

universe. Thank you very much.